

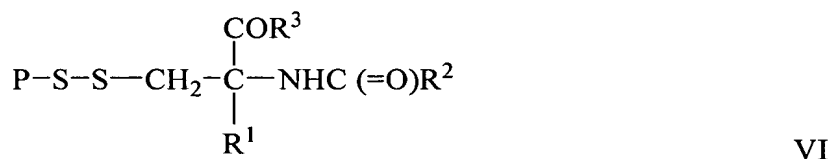
### ***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for prolonging blood and tissue retention of a sulfhydrylgroup containing compound selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins and oligonucleotides into mammalian cells, said method comprising:

forming from the sulfhydryl-containing compound a compound of general formula VI



in which P is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins and oligonucleotides; R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl; R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of a lipid-containing moiety, --CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(NH<sub>2</sub>)CO<sub>2</sub>H and -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(NHCO--lipid)CO--lipid; and R<sup>3</sup> is -OH, a lipid-containing moiety or an amino acid chain comprising one or 2 amino acids and terminating in -CO<sub>2</sub>H or -COR<sup>2</sup>; and

administering the compound of general formula VI to the cells;

wherein said lipid is a hydrophobic substituent consisting of 4 to 26 carbon atoms and said lipid together with the attached carbonyl is a fatty acid acyl group.

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen,  $R^2$  is a lipid group and  $R^3$  is -OH.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen,  $R^2$  is  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{NH}_2)\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  or  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{NHCO-lipid})\text{CO-lipid}$  and  $R^3$  is  $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$  or  $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CO-lipid}$  in which at least one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  comprises a lipid group.

Claims 12-22 (cancelled).